



Clissold Park User Group News

Notes of our September 14th, 2019 meeting

Attendees: Committee members: Mark Forsyth, Kath Willgress, Lee Stacy, Hilde Oorde, Daphne Kemp
Renée Willgress, Ken Worpole, Lorraine Worpole, Sophie Cameron (Councillor), Sophie Higgins, Julia, Bea Pemberton and 3 other park users

Apologies: Quentin Geurs (Park Manager), John Hudson, Isabelle Gore, Betty Manning, Caroline Millar, Delilah Jeary, Amir Dotan, Theresa Bowden, Daphne and Chris Steele.

Minutes from previous meeting were approved

Matters arising

Rats are proliferating near the ponds. Ken Worpole suggested that since people often got angry when asked not to feed bread to the ducks, could leaflets in English and Turkish be available to explain that feeding bread to the ducks encourages rats.

AP: Mark to ask Quentin Geurs for improved signage and for multi-language leaflets.
Daphne noted this as an ongoing issue.

Park Manager's Report (delivered by Mark Forsyth)

Café: The tender process for the café is complete and results are to be announced shortly. The current operators, Company of Cooks did not apply. Their tenure ends 2nd November and will not be extended. If a new operator is not in place, provision will be made for temporary café facilities.

Clissold House was a finalist in the Hire Space Awards

Butterfly dome: CPUG have taken over running the butterfly dome and aims to stock it with native species. Mark and some volunteers are watering the plants regularly and some volunteer (planting and composting) days are being planned. Mark

has a list of 25 potential volunteers and encourages new volunteers to sign up.

Clissold Park consultation: One of the park's regular user surveys will be available shortly, online and with paper copies in the Café.

Clissold House will once again be participating in **Open House London** with regular historical tours led by Ken Worpole, Bea Pemberton and Mark Forsyth. Amir Dotan will be giving a talk on the history of the park

Antisocial behaviour: There are concerns of ongoing muggings in and around the park. Some shops and businesses on Church Street have been designated as safe spaces where children and young people can go for help if necessary. Clissold House is also included. Please inform police if you see anything of concern and contact the Park Manager or the Rangers who can quickly inform the police. You can do this anonymously. The police, Safer Neighbourhood teams, park management and schools are working together on this. Lorraine suggests getting a reference number when reporting to police.

New River: New pumps have been bought and will be installed soon. The bridge will be closed during installation.

Thanks to Quentin Geurs for the Park Report

130th Birthday Celebration Sunday 22nd September

Sharing the day with Open House and Car Free Day our community event in the dog-free area includes: guided tours of the house; history talk; Hackney Play Bus; Peter Bedford Party in the Park (Old Bowling Green); Tree Walk; a visit from the Fire Engine; yoga sessions; Community Library van; community stalls; coconut shy and much more.

CPUG is paying £1500 towards this event.

Sophie Cameron offered a big thanks to Caroline Millar for organising this.

Park updates

Pump House: Council will be tendering after the Café contract is assigned.

Cyclists: there have been complaints about cyclists going too fast. It was noted that most cyclists are considerate and respect other park users. Of course, all park users should respect other park users.

Popular Park Ranger, Erni is currently working in Haggerston. Rangers and gardeners are employed Borough-wide. MF thanked Ernie for his dedicated work in Clissold Park and said our loss is their gain.

Discussion points

Should the formal **planting near the Lodge** be changed to be less formal and more sustainable and cheaper? Shouldn't the residents of the Lodge be consulted?

Ken W - much of the park is sustainable, it's good to have variety and people love the traditional beds, often choosing it as a background to their photos

Survey

There will be a park user survey later this month with online and paper versions and we will try and get as many people as possible to engage with this it. We could get volunteers to spend an afternoon asking people to fill it out, or as part of the event in the autumn.

Biodiversity

No report this session

Action points

More visible signage re Safe Place scheme and ensure the new Café contractors know about it.

**Next meeting – Saturday 9 November 2019
11am to noon in Clissold House**